No.09

The Great War

Various rumours were spread.

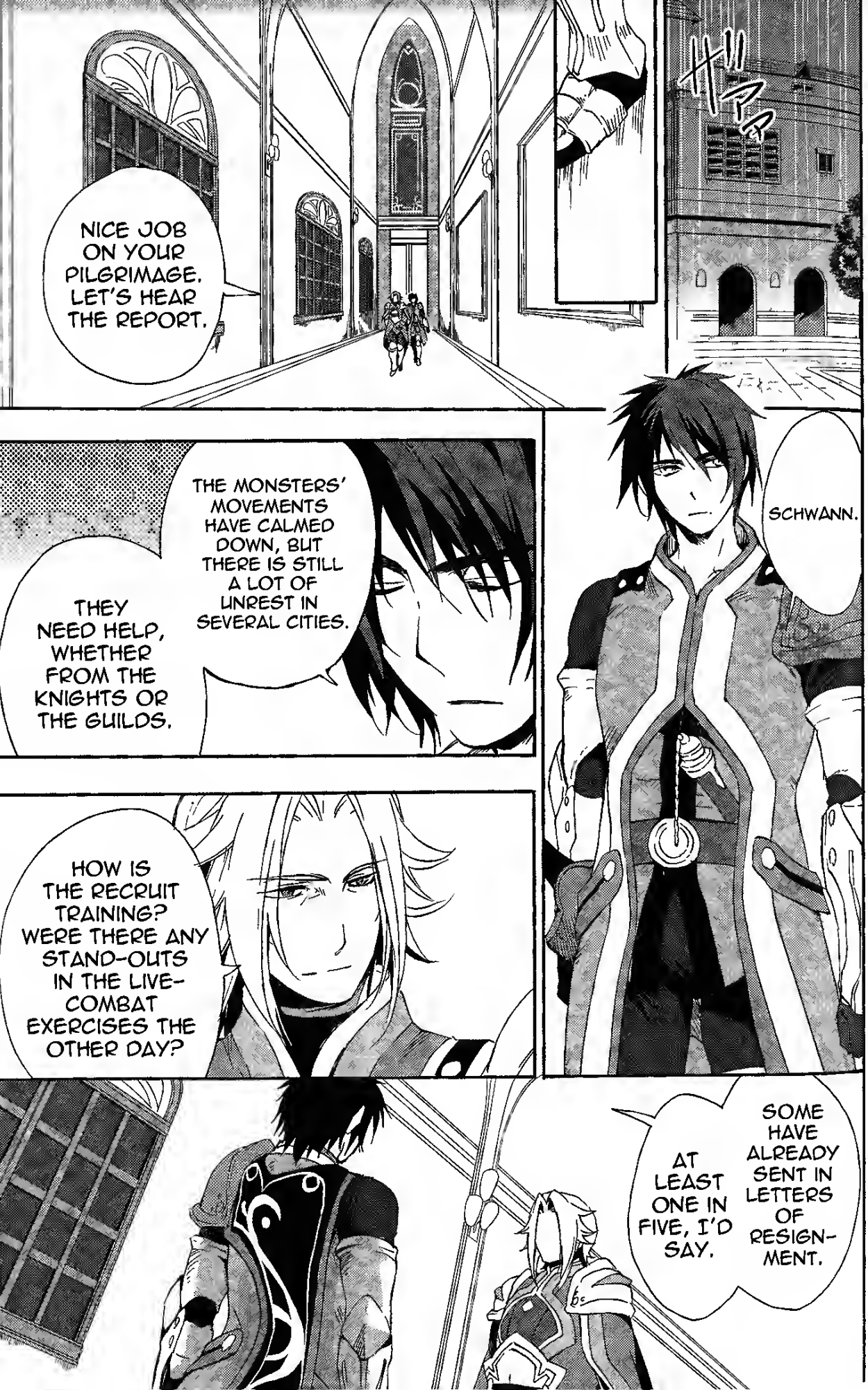
People were disturbed by the low number of survivors.

The organized forces of monsters. The giant monster that couldn't be stopped by a barrier blastia.

But that is what the people call the massive damages suffered that time.

Techincally, since the Empire is the only government state in Terca Lumireis, wars do not occur.

"A HERO WHO SURVIVED THE GREAT WAR,
"THE HERO OF THE COMMON PEOPLE,
CAPTAIN SCHWANN!"
SOMEONE RETURNING FROM THE GREAT WAR ALIVE-
ALIVE
WHO COULD THEY MEAN?


NICE JOB ON YOUR PILGRIMAGE. LET'S HEAR THE REPORT.
SCHWANN.
THE MONSTERS' MOVEMENTS HAVE CALMED DOWN, BUT THERE IS STILL A LOT OF UNREST IN SEVERAL CITIES.
THEY NEED HELP, WHETHER FROM THE KNIGHTS OR THE GUILDS.
HOW IS THE RECRUIT TRAINING? WERE THERE ANY STAND-OUTS IN THE LIVE-COMBAT EXERCISES THE OTHER DAY?
SOME HAVE ALREADY SENT IN LETTERS OF RESIGN-MENT.
AT LEAST ONE IN FIVE, I'D SAY.

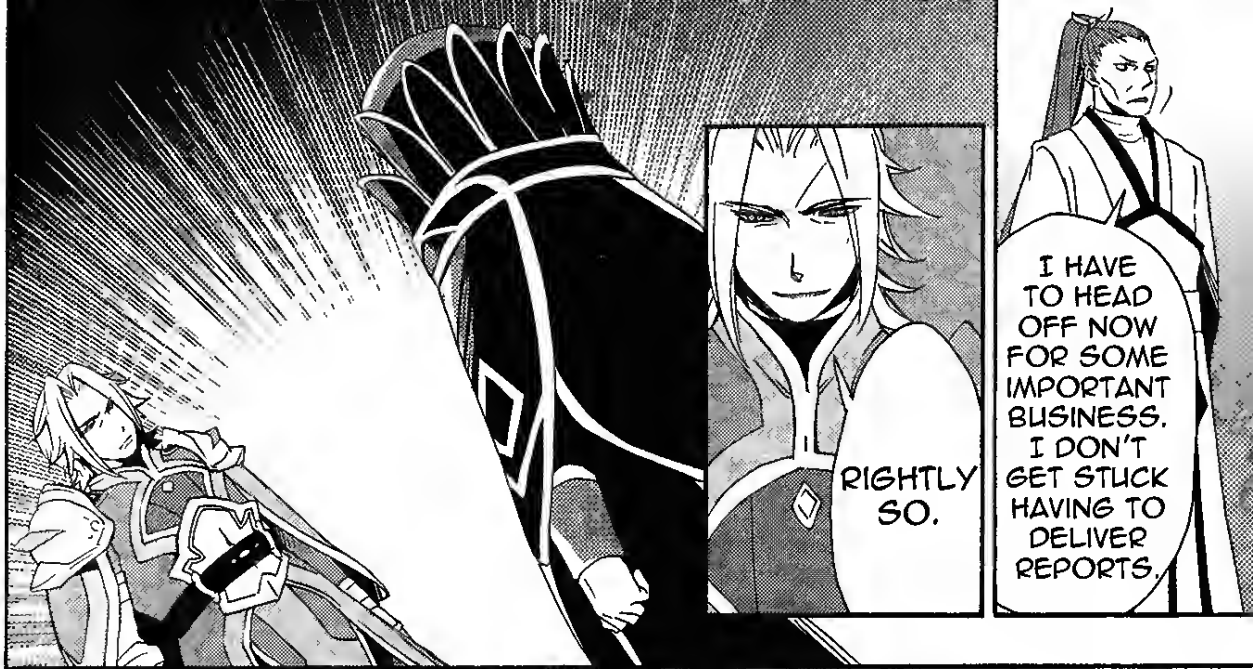
WE HAVE TO TRAIN WHO WE HAVE, EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE PERSON... I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
THAT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN.
OH, COMMAN-DANT ALEXEI.
LET'S SKIP THE SMALL TALK.
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR REQUEST TO INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR THE IMPERIAL KNIGHTS WOULD PASS BY THE COUNCIL THAT EASILY?
Council Member Kactoph
Supervisor Fialen

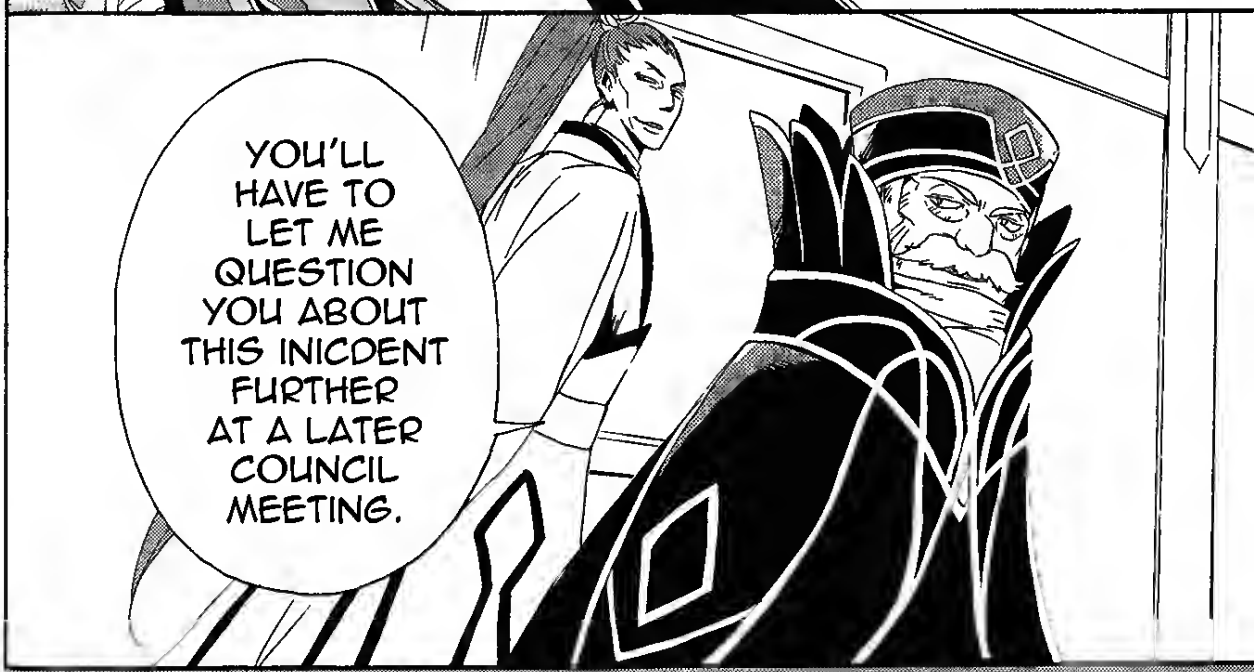
After The Great War, governing in the absence of the emperor was taken over by the Imperial Council,
and the Imperial Knights, led by Alexei. However, relations between the two have grown fiercer.

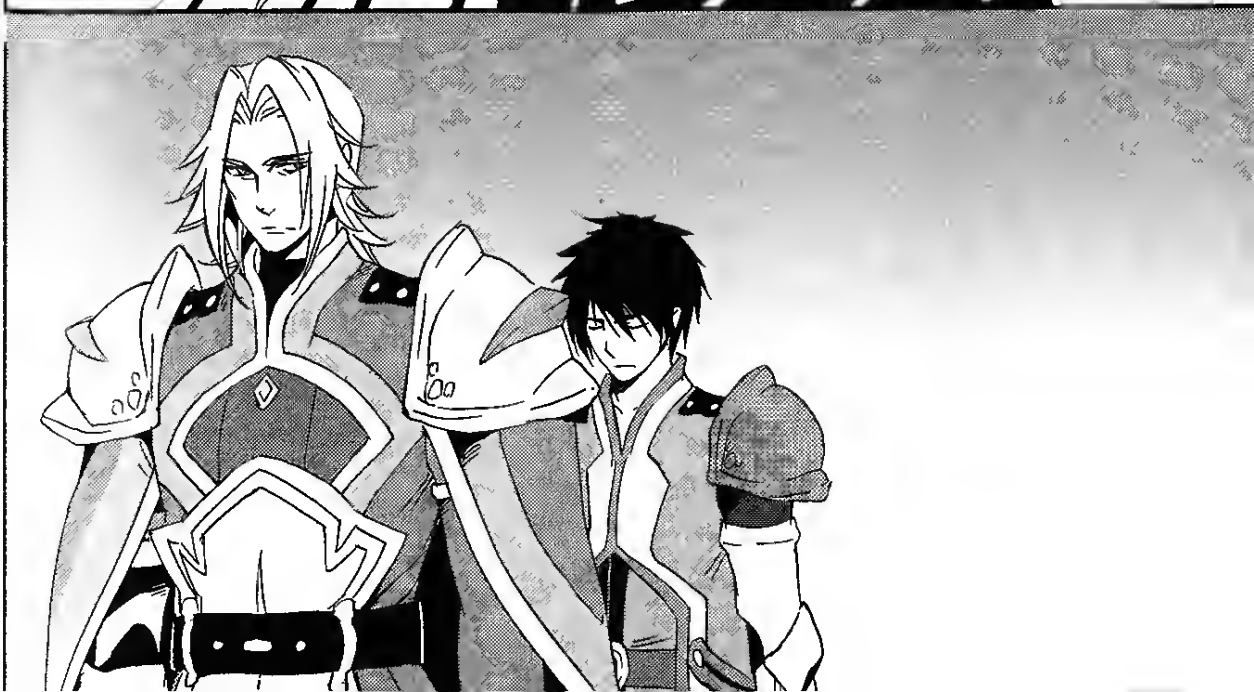
YOU'RE SAYING MY REQUEST WASN'T APPROVED?
IT'S IMPERATIVE TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM. PLEASE REVISE YOUR BUDGET PROPOSAL TO ONLY INCLUDE WHAT IS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE CURRENT SIZE, OK?
チラ…
AND THERE'S YOUR PROMOTION OF COMMONERS.
I'VE HEARD YOU RECENTLY LOWERED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT...

WE'RE SO LOW ON MEN, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT ANY HELP REGARDLESS OF ONES BACK-GROUND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT FUNCTION.
A COMMONER HAS NEVER BEEN PROMOTED TO A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE IMPERIAL KNIGHTS.
YOUR DISRESPECT TOWARDS TRADITION IS CAUSING QUITE THE CONFUSION.
The public opinion on Schwann Oltrain is split into two views.
To the masses and young knights, he became an object of adoration as the "noble knight with a commoner background."
To the older nobility, he was despised as a commoner knight disrupting order.
I SEE.

TO MAKE PROPER USE OF THE IMPERIAL KNIGHTS I INHERITED UPON THE EMPEROR'S DEATH,
WE'RE DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY.
EVEN IF IT GOES AGAINST THE DYING WISHES OF OUR PREVIOUS RULERS?
DO BE CAREFUL. THE OTHER DAY, THE KNIGHTS ALLOWED THIEVES TO INVADE HEAD-QUARTERS, AND IN THE END A FIRE WAS LET LOOSE IN THE LIBRARY.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO ENSURE QUALITY BEFORE ADDING MORE PEOPLE.
YOU CERTAINLY DON'T HOLD BACK. YOU ALWAYS KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE KNIGHTS, BUT I DON'T RECALL YOU EVER SHOWING UP DURING THAT INCIDENT.
JUST WHERE WERE YOU?

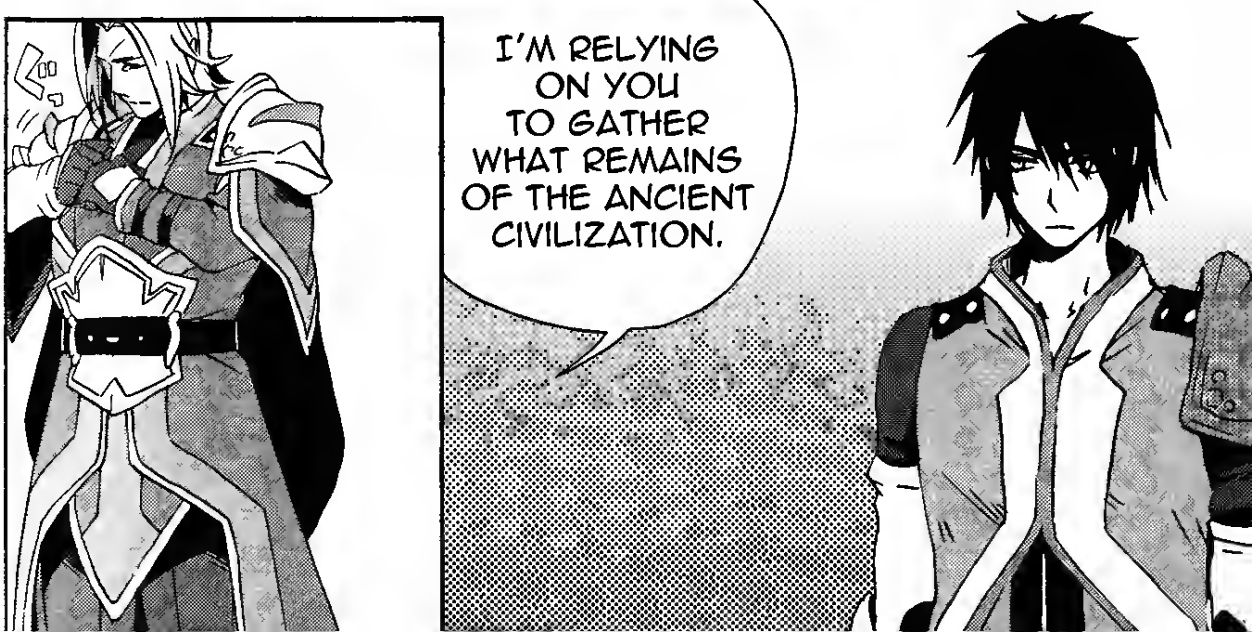

RIGHTLY SO.
I HAVE TO HEAD OFF NOW FOR SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS. I DON'T GET STUCK HAVING TO DELIVER REPORTS.


YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME QUESTION YOU ABOUT THIS INICDENT FURTHER AT A LATER COUNCIL MEETING.

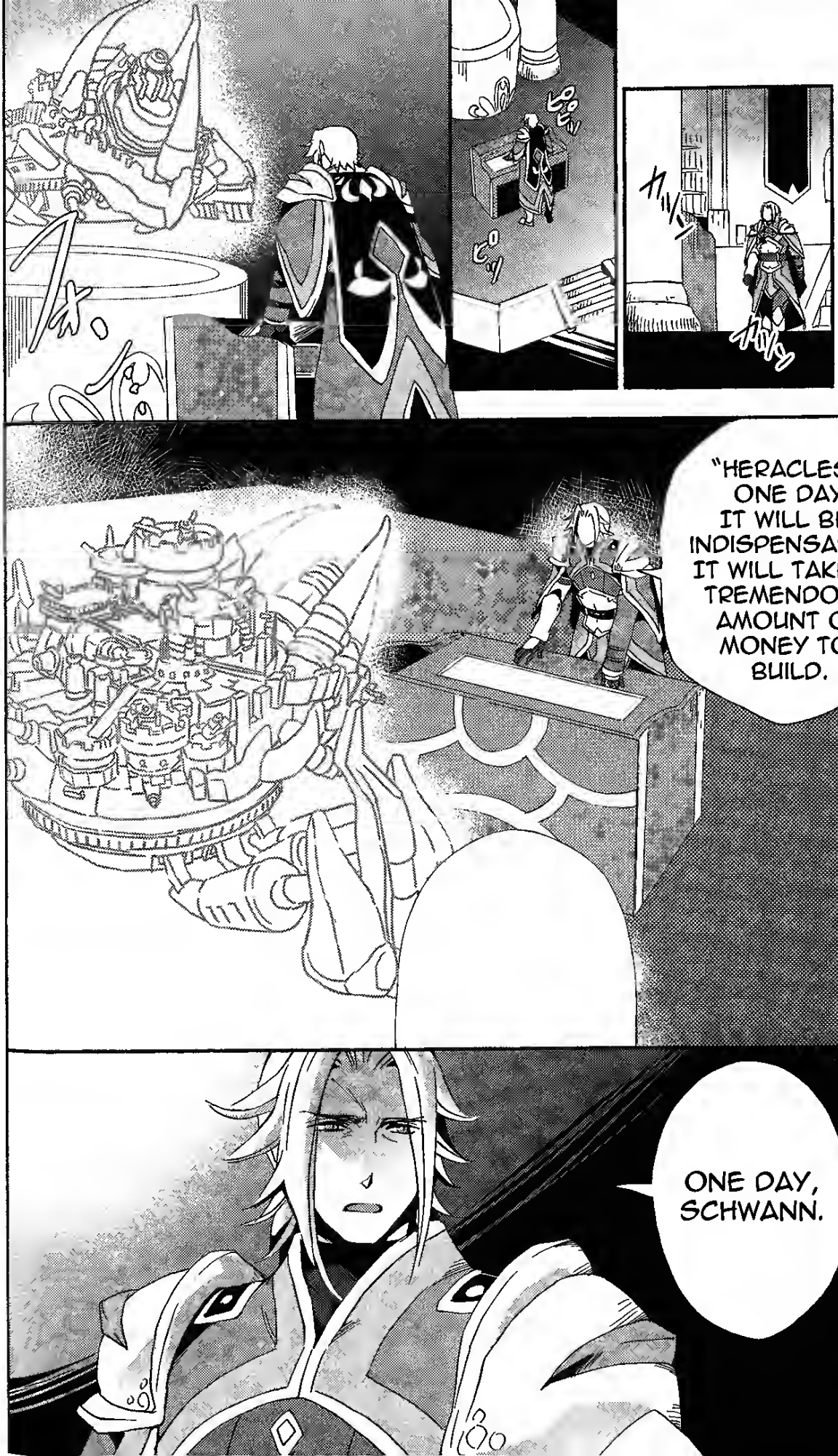


EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN SCHWANN!
HE'S A YOUNG, BUT SKILLFUL KNIGHT. HE ACTS AS MY AIDE.
THE DATA HAS BEEN PREPARED. THIS WAY, SIR.
HM
THIS PLACE IS...
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME IN HERE, CORRECT?

ALL THE DOCUMENTS I'VE COLLECTED SINCE BEFORE I BECOME COMMANDANT ARE SORTED HERE.
EVEN WITH THE EMPIRE AND BLASTIA, WE'RE STILL AT THE MERCY OF THE WORLD AROUND US.
SCHWANN, I...
EVEN IF WE CANNOT SURPASS THE ANCIENT PEOPLE WHO CREATED THE BLASTIA, I WANT TO SHOW WE STILL HAVE POWER.


I'M RELYING ON YOU TO GATHER WHAT REMAINS OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.

THE THIEVES WERE MOST LIKELY AFTER THIS.
I KNOW THERE'S NO POINT IN SAYING IT NOW.
BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW THINGS WOULD BE IF HE WERE STILL HERE.
OUR FUTURE LIES IN THIS BOOK.
ギュ…
WE CAN'T PASS THIS BOOK TO PEOPLE WHO GRASP FOR IT WITHOUT SEEING PAST THEIR IMMEDIATE INTERESTS.


"HERACLES." ONE DAY IT WILL BE INDISPENSABLE. IT WILL TAKE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BUILD.
ONE DAY, SCHWANN.

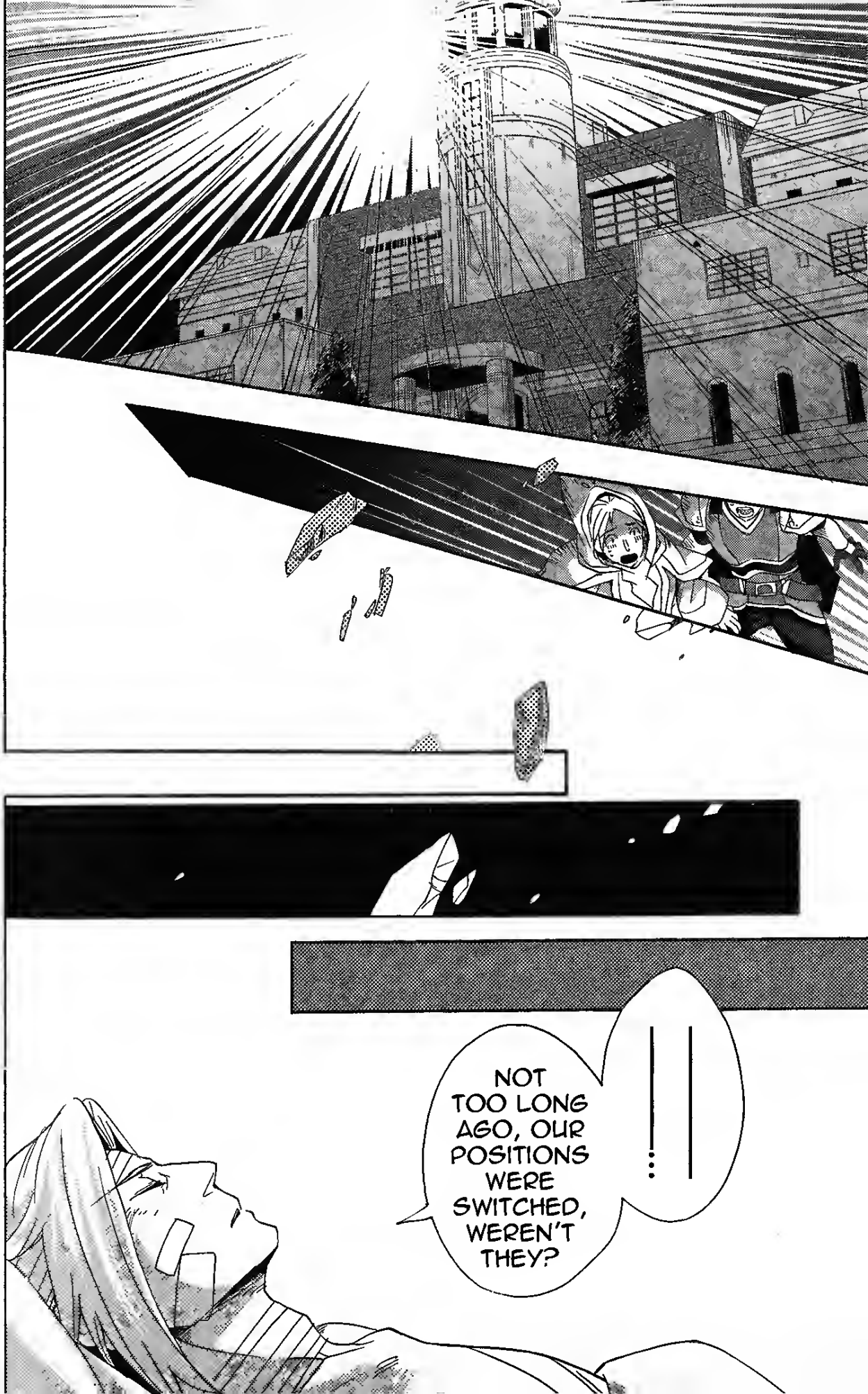
ナアアアアア…
EVENTU-
ALLY, BUT
INEVITABLY.

AND SO, WITH A MAJORITY RULING, THE MOTION HAS BEEN APPROVED.
IT WAS THE OPPO-SITION. THEY CHANGED THEIR MINDS. HOW COULD THIS BE, FIALEN!?
SUCH CHANGE ... COULD IT BE...
APPROVED!? THIS IS ABSURD...!
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE KNIGHTS.
THE KNIGHTS ARE IN YOUR DEBT. WE WILL NOT FORGET THIS.
OVER THERE ...
くぬぬぬ
THAT BLASTED ALEXEI! WHEN DID HE PULL THIS OFF ...!?

FINE. IF HE WANTS TO PLAY OUR GAME, LET'S RESPOND ACCORDINGLY, SHALL WE?
SCREAMING
COMMANDANT!!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WELL... SUDDENLY THIS MAGIC FORMULA APPEARED ABOVE HEADQUARTERS, AND COVERED OVER THE ENTIRE BUILDING.
WHAT IS THAT?

AFTER THE FORCE FIELD DEVELOPES, IT WILL RELEASE A BLAST WAVE,
THAT WILL DESTROY EVERYONE AND EVERY-THING INSIDE IT.
IN OTHER WORDS... IT'S A TYPE OF BOMB THAT UTILIZES BLASTIA.
SIR!!
SIR, WE CAN'T GET OUT! PLEASE HELP US!
WAIT THERE!!
!!
!!
NO! SIR, IF YOU GO IN THERE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE, EITHER!
YOU CAN'T GO NEAR THEM!

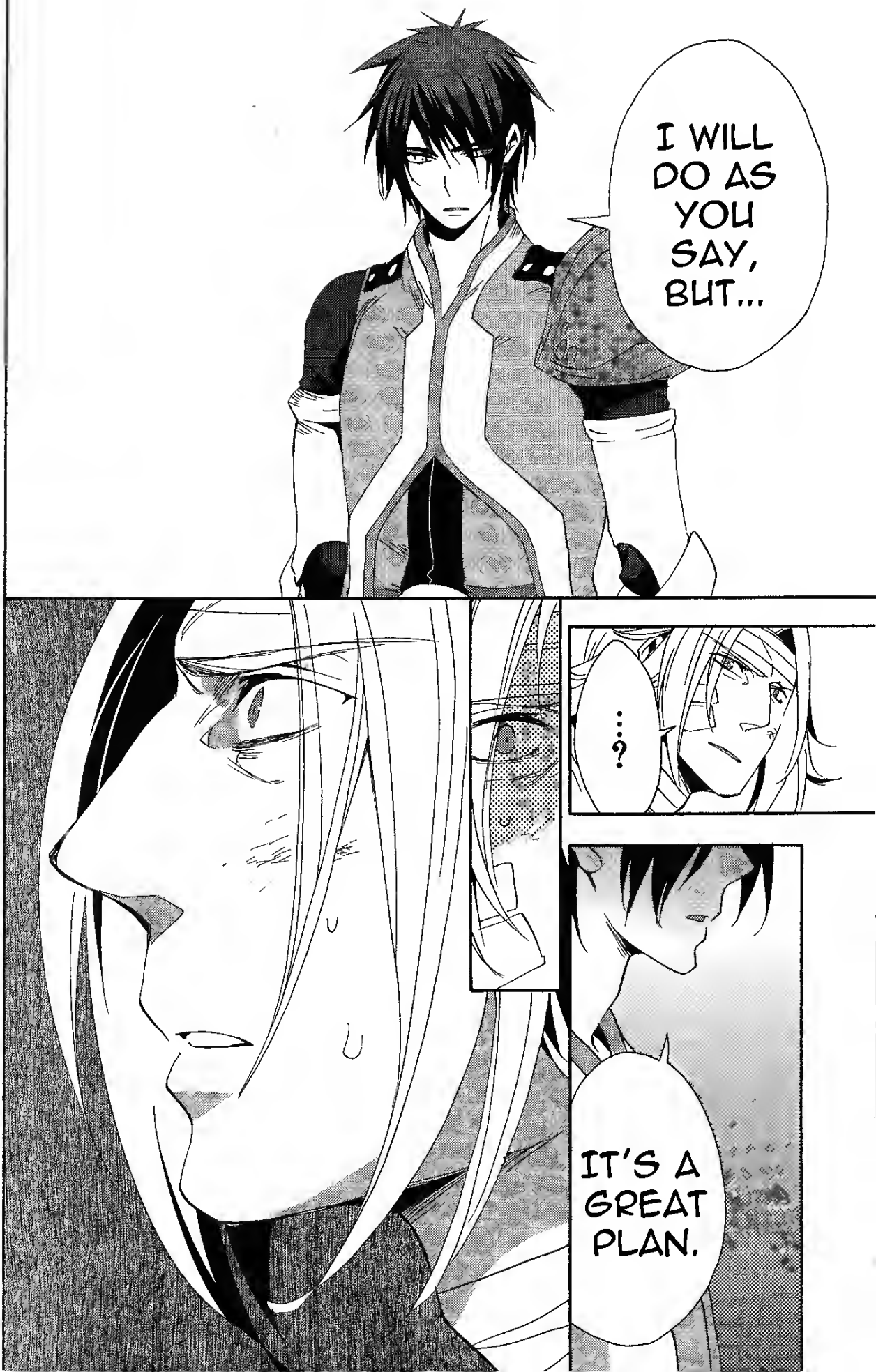
LET ME GO! YOU LET ME GO, NOW!
SIR!
MY MEN ARE IN THERE! THE FUTURE OF THE EMPIRE! MY DREAM!
COME BACK!
SIR ...!


NOT TOO LONG AGO, OUR POSITIONS WERE SWITCHED, WEREN'T THEY?

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
IN MY STRUGGLE AGAINST SUCH POWERFUL FORCES IN THE GREAT WAR, IT SEEMS I ENDED UP UNDERESTIMATING THE LEVELS OF ANTAGONISM AMONG HUMANS.
NO.
IT MIGHT BE I JUST NEVER IMAGINED HUMANS WOULD GO TO SUCH LENGTHS AS THIS...
...HOW FOOLISH.

THE MAIN DORMS ARE CURRENTLY IN THE HIGHEST STATE OF SECURITY.
OUTSIDERS, INCLUDING COUNCILMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO APPROACH IT
YOU CAN FOCUS ENTIRELY ON YOUR RECOVERY, NOW.
I SAW MY MEN AS THEY TURNED TO ASH...
IN THE EXPLO-SION...
EACH ONE OF THEM SUPPORTED ME. THEY WERE THE YOUTH THAT WOULD BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER WITH ME.
AS I WAS PULLED FROM THE RUBBLE, I SAW FIALEN.
THE LOOK ON HIS FACE TOLD ME EVERY-THING...

BUT THIS TIME, LET'S BEGIN AFTER ALL OUR OBSTACLES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.
SCHWANN, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GIVING UP NOW.
IF WE CAN GET RID OF THE RIGHT ONES, THE REST WILL GET THE PICTURE.
WE DON'T NEED NUMBERS.
WHILE I TRIED TO TAKE TOO MUCH, WE FAILED TO GET WHAT MATTERED MOST.
AND I DIDN'T REALIZE WHO I MADE AN ENEMY OF IN THE MEANTIME.
AS LONG AS I LIVE, I STILL HAVE MY DREAMS.
ALL I HAVE LEFT NOW IS YOU. WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF IT?


I WILL DO AS YOU SAY, BUT...
...?
IT'S A GREAT PLAN.

TONIGHT IT IS, THEN.
...I'VE ALREADY GIVEN, MY ANSWER
I... CAN'T GO BACK NOW.

The next day, influential council members and their cohorts died mysterious deaths, which were declared to be due to illness.
Rumours spread among the people that asserted the deaths were more likely assassinations.